

critical digest



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Oct 24, 1960 Vol XII No 31 The Weekly NYC Theatre Newsletter Digest Service-11th year - Published 52 weeks a year \$25 per year

This Week in NYC

Phoenix Theatre set firm plans for true repertory by rehearsing both of its first two productions. She Stoops to Conquer opens Nov 1 and The Plough and the Stars opens Dec 8, both directed by Stuart Vaughan. First production will play for five weeks, second for four, and then both will be done in repertory starting at Christmas, with third production to be added Jan 26. Tyrone Guthrie's production of HMS Pinafore closed a successful five week run, and the director promises to stage next fall The Pirates of Penzance.

Plays

3 musicals moved--The Music Man to the Broadway, Bye Bye Birdie to 54th St Theatre, and West Side Story to Alvin ... The 49th Cousin moved debut forward two days to Oct 27, and at the request of Leonard Spigelglass he is no longer credited with the revisions in comedy script ... Becket has cut 12 minutes from opening night running time. ... The Wall has deleted character portrayed by Truman Gaige and added dialogue to better define characters portrayed by George C Scott and Muni Seroff. ... Kukla, Burr and Ollie now set to open Oct 31. ... The Hostage to move Nov 14 to Barrymore. ... The Conquering Hero new title of musical version of "Hall the Conquering Hero" ... Arthur Cantor has joined Fred Coe as co-producer of All the Way Home. ... 3 musicals set spring plans--Torero! modern musical version of "Cyrano de Bergerac" by Bernie Wayne and Joseph Schrank to be presented this spring by Alton Wilkes, Kwamina a new musical about modern Africa by Richard Adler and Robert Alan Arthur to be presented in May by Alfred de Liagre, Jr directed by Tony Richardson, How to Succeed Without Really Trying musical adaptation of Shepard Mead novel by Abe Burrows, Jack Weinstock, Frank Loesser to be presented in Mar by Frank Productions & Feuer & Martin.

Players

Jackie Gleason, Take Me Along, left show in mid-week, completing his one year contract, William Bendix replaced him. Lloyd Gough replaced Walter Pidgeon. ... Pamela Charles returned to My Fair Lady, after two week vacation, Margot Moser subbed. ... Peggy Cass to take two week leave from Thurber Carnival Nov 8 to do Jack Paar TV show from Hollywood, Patricia Bright to sub ... Celeste Holm replaced Shelley Winters, Invitation to a March, in mid-week during Boston tryout. ... Lionel Stander and Jane Mason to be featured in Conquering Hero ... Brendan Behan on certain nights joins cast of The Hostage for curtain calls and finale song.

NYC Calendar

ANTA Matinee Series- 10/25 only NY Chapter of AN1A presents first bill of three short plays, directed by Richard Barr--Fam and Yam by Edward Albee, Ember's by Samuel Beckett and Nekros by Harry Tierney, Jr.

The 49th Cousin -Ambassador 10/27 Theatre Guild & George Kondolf present new comedy by Florence Lowe and late Caroline Francke staged by Jack Smight with Menasha Skulnik, Martha Scott, Marian Winters, Gerald Hiken.

Invitation to a March-Music Box 10/29. Theatre Guild presents new comedy by Arthur Laurents staged by author with Celeste Holm, Eileen Heckert, Jane Fonda, James MacArthur.

Man and Superman- Gate- 10/30 Gate Repertory presents second production of season, Shaw revival staged by Matt Conley.

Directors

Alan Jay Lerner subbing for Moss Hart, Camelot, following latter's heart attack during Toronto tryout. Lerner has just recovered from an ulcer attack. Josh Logan is reported sought to take over full direction when show moves to Boston.

Special Events

Mary Martin will act as chairman of 1960 Actors Fund Week Dec 23- 31. ... Oscar Hammerstein Memorial Service was held at NY Community Church by Rev Donald Harrington. ... 12 plays and musicals to be presented at 100 NY City schools in the spring by repertory troupes of American Theatre Wing.

Theatre Ad Notes

Wed display ads in all NYC dailies featured notices of 6 David Merrick shows starting at 7 30, and all other Broadway shows starting at 8 30 PM.

Theatre TV Notes

BBC TV series "An Age of Kings" presenting history of 7 British monarchs as told in Shakespearean plays will be presented for 15 weeks on WNEW (NY) twice weekly startin Dec 6 with Richard II, Tues at 8 PM and Sun at 10 PM. ... Robert Morley, Wally Cox, Joey Bishop signed for Heaven Can Wait CBS Show of Month Nov 16. ... WNTA Play of Week taped four hour production of The Iceman Cometh may be presented in art film houses prior to TV if all rights can be cleared.

Off Broadway

Valmouth closed after 14 performances, Kittiwake Island after 7. ... Greenwich Village USA forced to cancel Sun matinee due to flooded basement from a leaky faucet. ... Sign of Jonah set to tour colleges and churches in 10 cities in Dec.

Lori March replaced Patricia Cutts, Hedda Gabler, Mark Lenard joined Ibsen revival. ... E. W. Swackhamer to stage Pirandello's The Rules of the Game in Nov at Stage Society. ... The King of the Dark Chamber by Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore to be presented in Nov by Van Joyce, Herald Leventhal-Patricia Newhall ... To Damascus by Strindberg to be presented in Dec by Angela Anderson with George Jones in lead. ... Jose Duval, who portrays Vanzetti in The Shoemaker and the Peddler is seen in Columbian Coffee TV ads.

Dead End, Equity Library Theatre production Oct 25-31 will be presented on schedule after a one night "sit-in" strike by cast after ELT managing director Lyle Dye, Jr originally cancelled the production as "sloppy and unprofessional" Next ELT production is My Hearts in the Highlands Nov 8-13.

Theatre Book Notes

Brendan Behan to write book on his impressions of US for Bernard Geiss Associates. ... "The Complete Plays of W. D. Howells" edited by Walter J Meserve published by NYU Press (\$15.)

Theatre Record Notes

An Evening with Mike Nichols and Elaine May recorded by Mercury Records before audience of Broadway cast members at Barbizon Plaza Theatre. ... John Gielgud to star in Caedman Records' presentation of Julius Caesar and The Winter's Tale.

Theatre Film Notes

The Connection with its current Off Broadway cast being filmed in NY this week ... Helen Hayes to star in The Chalk Garden film version to be presented by Ross Hunter ... Robert Preston to repeat starring role in film version of The Music Man to be made by Warner Bros, Morton DaCosta director.

((Late News & Reviews- Supplement))

DIGESTS OF CURRENT NYC THEATRE REVIEWS

Tenderloin-46th St 10/17. 2 pros- News, World Telegram & Sun- and 5 cons- filed on new musical based on Samuel Hopkins Adams novel of 1890 NY reformer Rev Parkhurst with book by Jerome Weidman and George Abbott, music by Jerry Bock, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, staged by Abbott presented by Robert Griffith-Harold Prince with Maurice Evans, Ron Husmann, Eileen Rodgers, Lee Becker, Wynne Miller. 2 affirmatives were near raves for all elements, while negative voters disappointed by poor adaptation of both the book and the period. Wide disagreement filed on costumes and sets of Cecil Beaton, while all agreed that Evans did fine job in his first musical. Chapman, News, cheered delightful, racy show, wondrously tinny music, and especially Husmann as a fine singing newcomer. Aston, WTS, applauded everything but first section which showed some signs of patching, otherwise he marked another whopper of an Abbott musical by an extraordinarily competent company and with a charming score. Majority dissenting viewpoint headed by Taubman, Times, who thought only Beaton's sets and costumes made clear what the show might have been, the book itself not sure if it is jesting or in earnest making the wages of virtue largely dullness. Times aisle-sitter did okay music and lyrics, but little else. Kerr, Herald Tribune, panned it an unaccountably dour documentary with no fun, the most serious musical comedy he ever saw, with unappetizing girls' costumes. Coleman, Mirror, thought it missed the charm and humor of the novel, only a pale synopsis of the salty, colorful original. He agreed that Husmann stood out in cast, and that the costumes were like a Dali binge. Watts, Post, blamed book trouble which starts out gaily satirical but becomes dull and sentimental over the love story and also surprisingly undramatic. McClain, Journal American, tabbed it a clunker, which utterly failed to capture the built-in nostalgia of the era, never managed to resolve itself into a story of any compulsion.

Darwin's Theories- Madison Av Playhouse- 10/18 6 con- unanimous- Times, Herald Tribune, Mirror, Post, Journal American, World Telegram & Sun- filed on new revue with sketches by Alan Alda, music and lyrics by Darwin Venneri, staged by Stanley Phillips, presented by Win Productions with Patricia Fay, Albie Gay, Bette Guy, Alda and Venneri. Harsh notices panned almost everything in sight, with 3 critics- Times, Post, Journal American- admitting they left after the first act. Taubman, Times, noted that the one theory that did not occur is that somewhere in a revue there should be a shred of talent, he rated the sketches heavyhanded or pointless, the songs remindful of countless other tunes, the performers persistent. Morgenstern, Herald Tribune, picked Fay as an accomplished comedienne but her efforts not enough to save the evening from its own cliches. Coleman, Mirror, in a milder tone found some good ideas and some ingratiating young people to execute them, but not at prices near Broadway shows. Unsigned World Telegram & Sun report found something kind to say about it, it is a short show. Watts, Post, was afraid that if he stayed for the second act someone might have accused him of being prejudiced; otherwise the sketches are unfunny and except for Alda the cast is unprofessional. The pupils of an elementary school for backward children would have scant reason for feeling proud of themselves if they put on an intimate revue as hopeless as this, Post man stated. McClain, Journal American, explained his early exit because he felt he had been unjustly cornered by a disastrously amateur endeavor and was frankly too embarrassed to stay for more.

The Shoemaker and the Peddler- East 74th St 10/14. 2 pro- Herald Tribune, World Telegram & Sun- and 3 con- Times, Post, Journal American- filed on new musical based on last five hours of Sacco and Vanzetti with book and lyrics by Armand Aulicino, music by Frank Fields, staged by Lee Nemtz presented by Jullis Productions with Jose Duval, Anita Darian, James Bosotina, Elinor Miller. Pros rated music and talented singers as worth the visit, while they agreed with colleagues that book and lyrics did little to help story of famed pair. Affirmative team headed by Morgenstern, Herald Tribune, who thought the remarkable music generates tension not always present in drama, good voices and vivid dancing help ease scar above sentiment and opinion; despite any real eloquence in the dialogue new life has been breathed into story. Aston, WTS, also praised music and voices, a commendable effort to set a tract to music in an excellent production with the four leads equal to opera. Negative side headed by Taubman, Times, who did find the music interesting mingling legitimate Italianate vein with a beat of American jazz, but he feared the book and dialogue is dull and fails to develop any characters. Herridge, Post, panned book for its lack of drama and for painting everything black or white. McClain, Journal American, panned warmed over story with rhymed dialogue that is well sung, though he admitted he didn't dig the message of the music.

Sheperds on the Shelf-Blackfriars 10/14. 3 pro- Mirror, Journal American, World Telegram & Sun -filed on new farce by Rev John P O'Donnell directed by Michael Kray, presented by Blackfriars Guild with Mark Hershforfer, Mike Sawyer, Barre Dennen. All gave approval to humorous situation of elderly priests and most of cast, with exception of Dennen were praised. Coleman, Mirror, enjoyed aimable spoor, swiftly paced and well-played except for Dennen who is more of a caricature than a character. O'Connor, Journal American, applauded comedy that often talked too much, and the cast also with exception of Dennen who overplayed. Aston, WTS, recommended it for family-style laughs, affectionately screwy enough, though if played and paced faster it might have more commercial possibilities. Production opens 20th season of Blackfriars Guild, and is the 50th original play presented.

In-Laws- Isidor Straus Theatre-193 E Bway-10/15. 3 pros- Times, News, Post- filed on new Yiddish comedy presented week-ends only by Hebrew Actors Union, script in Yiddish by Chune Gottsfield, directed by author with Isaac Lipinsky, Jacob Zanger, Vera Rosanka, Rose Shosham, Shepard, Times, enjoyed spirited, humorous comedy, ideally cast in production that certainly had ebullience if not polish. Unsigned News review recommended new comedy with music with its fine performances and its often hilarious satire on Communism. Rosenberg, Post, complimented entire cast in humorous study of Russian political life. Production is presented Sat nights and twice on Suns.

((Late Reviews on Supplement))





OUTER BROADWAY
THEATRE LETTER

College-----Community---- Summer

Oct 24, 1960 Vol XII No 31 The Weekly Supplement of "Critical Digest" 139 E 47, NYC EL 5-6894-\$25 per year for full "CD"Service

College Theatre

Outdoor production of Agamemnon by Queens Revel Players, Columbia University will be presented on plaza and steps of Low Memorial Library Oct 26-29, George Mallonee to direct. If it rains it will be presented at McMillin Theatre... New Russian Theatre exhibit currently on display at Brander Matthews Dramatic Museum, Columbia University, open to public.

New Hampshire University, Durham, opened its new \$2- 1/2 million Paul Creative Arts Center, which includes a new theatre with a three day dedication program which included lectures by John Mason Brown and Dorothy Stickney

New Archibald MacLeish poetic drama based on Hercules will be presented next fall at Yale University prior to NY production.

Boston University Theatre to present Oedipus Rex and Oedipus Oct 27-29.

Brooklyn College Variety Players presented The Male Animal last week.

Hofstra College, Hempstead, NY Drama Department opens season Oct 28-30 with The Adding Machine.

New Theatres

Academy Theatre, new 200 seat playhouse run in conjunction with Royal Poinciana Playhouse, Palm Beach, Fla opens Nov 15 with The Fantasticks, and plans to present other "Off Broadway" productions.

Warren Theatre, Atlantic City, NJ, has been torn down during winter and the Atlantic City Attractions Corp is hunting a new house to present a season of pre-Broadway tryouts.

Ford's Theatre, Baltimore, to be restored to its original 1865 design in honor of 100th anniversary of Lincoln's assassination. Library of Congress found an original drawing of historic event, and Congress at last session voted \$250,000 for research on the \$2 million project.



AETA News

AETA- Defense Dept Overseas Tours for 1960-61 announced as follows---Pacific Command (7 week tours)- Univ of Utah in Oct with Damn Yankees, Univ of Denver in Apr with Bernardine, UCLA in July with 45 Minutes from Broadway...Northeast Command (5 week tours)- State College, St Cloud, Minn in Oct with Wonderful Town, Univ of Miami in Feb with Moliere's "The Mischief Maker", Univ of Minn in Apr with The Matchmaker, Brooklyn College in July with The Male Animal...European Command (7 week tours)- Southwest Missouri State College in Mar with Finian's Rainbow, Univ of Del in July with The Boyfriend.

Applications for 1961-62 tours must be submitted to Campton Bell, Univ of Denver, Colo, by Nov 15.

Winter Repertory

Roman Candle production of Drury Lane Theatre, Chicago, postponed two days due to illness of Tom Duggan.

London

Once Upon a Mattress closed after one month's run at Adelphi. Musical opened to poor critical notices and boos of the first night audience.

Second Saint of Cyprus a new play by George Weller, foreign correspondent of Chicago Daily News, to be presented in Jan by Grescent Theatre, Birmingham.

Settled Out of Court by William Saroyan and Henry Cecil panned by London critics with most surprised that Saroyan could have been associated with the production.

Europe

Mark Twain Tonight show with Hal Holbrook to be presented in Nov in Warsaw by ANTA-State Dept.

Vivien Leigh plans to tour with Old Vic in Duel of Angels and Macbeth in Russia, Japan, Australia.

Road Shows

Tammy Grimes, Unsinkable Molly Brown ordered to take four performance rest during Philadelphia tryout last week after an attack of laryngitis.

Calendar- Tryouts

Rape of the Belt- Wilbur, Boston 10/19

The Unsinkable Molly Brown- Shubert, Philadelphia 9/26

Period of Adjustment-Walnut-Philadelphia 10/17

Under the Yum Yum Tree-Shubert New Haven 10/26

Advise & Consent- National, Washington 10/18

Taffy- Philadelphia 10/26

Little Moon of Alban-Forrest Philadelphia 10/28

Camelot- Shubert, Boston 10/26

Wildcat- Erlanger-Philadelphia 10/29

Forthcoming Tour Calendar

Send Me No Flowers-Hartford 11/10, Philadelphia 11/14

Critic's Choice- Wilmington 11/9, Boston 11/14, Philadelphia 11/28

Do Re Mi-Philadelphia 11/7 Boston 11/28

Love & Libel- Toronto 11/2 Detroit 11/7, Boston 11/21

Conquering Hero- New Haven 11/9, Washington 11/28

Showgirl - Baltimore 11/7, Philadelphia 11/14, Wilmington 11/30.

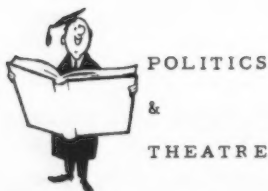
Current Tours

Five Finger Exercise-Ford's Baltimore 10/17

Fiorello- Shubert, Chicago- 9/6

A Majority of One- Erlanger Chicago 9/26

Flower Drum Song- State Fair Dallas 10/7



Both presidential candidates, John F Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon endorse a new Federally supported foundation for the performing arts, they replied to "Equity Magazine". Kennedy stated that he is in full sympathy with the proposal of Sen Javits (NY) and Sen Clark (Penn) for the foundation to provide encouragement and opportunity to non-profit, private and civic groups in the performing arts. Nixon stated that he wholeheartedly supports the objective of stimulating the advancement of the performing arts and thinks a good first step would be the creation of a "Federal Advisory Council on the Arts" in the Dept of Health, Education and Welfare. He believes that laying such groundwork is necessary before considering the more specific proposals of the Javits-Clark bill.

Kennedy and Nixon also agreed that the President's International Cultural Exchange Program should be expanded. On the question of special tax considerations for performers the national candidates split. The former told "Equity Magazine" he is in favor of immediate revision to allow artists to average their incomes for tax purposes over a period of from three to five years, while the latter urged further study of the problem as special reductions for one group would have to be applied to all groups and may result in a heavy burden on both government and the taxpayer.

17th Congressional District candidates, the "Silk Stocking" area of NYC covering all of the Broadway theatres and most of the Off Broadway theatres, Rep John Lindsay (R) and William Vanden Heuvel (D) both support the abolishment of the 10% federal tax and do not view this as a rebate to the producers, they told "CD". Lindsay states that his purpose in introducing such legislation was to relieve the industry of burdensome taxation and to induce lower ticket prices, any stipulation in the bill to make it effective only if ticket prices are reduced introduces an element of Federal control of the theatre industry and that could open the door to other controls. Vanden Heuvel suggests that various interested theatrical groups should make it clear in their testimony before Congress that the rising prices of theatre admission has cut attendance, that no further increase will be promoted, and that important reductions will be made if the federal and city taxes are removed.

Survey of current Broadway business reveals that the drama of the Presidential election campaign has hurt theatre business from an estimated 25% to "slight" Little, Herald Tribune reports. Producer Kermit Bloomgarden said that the real theatre-going for the season has not started yet and won't begin until after the election. Ticket broker Louis Schonceit that the Kennedy-Nixon debates are hurting theatre business and predicted that election night will find Broadway dead. A theatre party agent admitted bookings during the campaign weeks was dull. While a box-office treasurer and a company manager find that spur-of-the-moment theatre going has been hurt the most by the politicians.



INTERVIEW HI-LITES

SANDY WILSON, author of Valmouth, is surprised at the middle-class, provincial intellectuals of the NY critics who unanimously panned his defunct musical, he told Cleaves, World Telegram & Sun. They have incredible effrontery to call this tasteless after some of the things they've praised. Wilson thinks Sound of Music is one of the most tasteless things he ever saw. As for the critic who wrote a musical himself recently, Wilson recalls suffering through a matinee of his show, and he can't forgive him for his show.



LATE NYC NEWS & REVIEWS

LATE NYC NEWS: Darwin's Theories closed after 3 performances... Man and Superman postponed one week to Nov 6, with The Idiot continuing an extra week at Gate Repertory... Taffy cancelled both Philadelphia and Boston tryouts and suspended rehearsals. Producers George Hamlin and Malcolm Wells state they lack \$50,000 of the budget tied up in an estate dispute. They hope to find a new producer and stick to the Nov 23 NY debut of Anna Marie Barlow play starring Kim Stanley... Corrine Conley and Charmion King added to Love and Libel rehearsing in Toronto... Art Smith to be featured in All the Way Home... Albert Salmi to co-star with Walter Matthau in Once There Was a Russian due Feb 8... Flora Elkins to be featured in Rhinoceros... Judy Holliday recovering from surgery for non-malignant tumor in throat at NY Harkness Pavillion... Living Theatre to present The Apple by Jack Gelber and In the Jungle of the Cities by Brecht, the latter starting in Jan, the former added to repertory in Mar.

Face of a Hero- O'Neill-10/20. 1 pro- Post- and 6 con- filed on new play by Robert Joseph, based on Pierre Boulle's novel, directed by Alexander Mackendrick, presented by Lester Osterman with Jack Lemmon, Betsy Blair, Albert Dekker, Russell Collins. Sole affirmative agreed with majority that script had faults, but rated it a curiously disturbing drama. Dissenters generally blamed adaptation for poor craftsmanship, most okayed all of cast, though several thought Lemmon out of place. Pro voter Watts, Post, could not except for something by Duerrenmatt think of a more bitterly cynical modern play. Acting is excellent and in spite of its faults as a drama it drives ahead with relentless cynicism and because of its refusal to compromise with its contempt for human motives it is always interesting, he concluded. Negative voter Taubman, Times, panned ineptitude of the playwright for making preposterous drama out of what might have been sardonic, for presenting stereotype characters and for making his lines as predictable as a soap opera; the cast has little chance while Blair speaks in a loud monotone. Kerr, Herald Tribune, labeled it a case of dramatic suicide, with one and all trapped in a work that means to be ambiguous for most of its length and therefore is. Chapman, News, suggested a rewrite to fit the loosely-jointed scenes, but as play stands it is an unsatisfying attempt to adapt a novel. News aisle-sitter picked Kip McArdle in cast as best. Coleman, Mirror, did not enjoy the sort of Southern "The Visit" which seemed unbelievable and in which Lemmon seemed ill at ease in a good cast. McClain, Journal American, added together the many splendid performers and the many admirable but isolated scenes and scored a double zero in a play that is an assault on the preachers of play construction. Aston, World Telegram & Sun, added that script is fascinating demonstration of how to write flashes of grippingly good melodrama and end with a hollow thud, string of tense, clashing scenes aren't welded into a driving unit.





GREEN
ROOM
DEPARTMENT



PROS & CONS BY TMK

WHAT'S ENTERTAINMENT... Two critics expressed views on what's "entertainment." McClain, *Journal American*, is convinced that anybody who writes a good play can get it produced and if it suits the nation's tastes it will make a lot of money. If many of our dramas concern squalid and sometimes irregular folk it is because the people who are currently our best writers are more concerned with these characters than with the more polite and conventional types... Chapman, *News*, has the uneasy feeling that somebody thinks the truly cultural theatre should not be entertaining. There is nothing wrong with entertainment, there is no limit to its variety and no drama, opera, painting which is not entertaining to large numbers of people can be cultural--because nobody will be around to get cultured.

COLUMN TIPS... Catholic Church is expected to clash with Becket over the rough talk about the Pope, hears *Winchell Mirror*... Shelley Winters left *Invitation to March* because she didn't feel the part was big enough for her, while Celeste Holm believes she has latched onto a prize, reports *Farrell*, *World Telegram & Sun*... Insurers glad to pay \$100,00 to Laurette producer due to Judy Holiday's illness as a good lesson to others who do not insure their stars, notes Lyons, *Post*.

ELIOT VS ANOUILH... Comparing two plays on Thomas Becket, *Murder in the Cathedral* by T.S. Eliot and Becket by Jean Anouilh, *Atkinson*, *Times*, rates Eliot's the more majestic, while Anouilh's provides worldly perspective. The first has glory, the second high mindedness. Though both recognize the significance of Becket's intellectual conflict about the morality of the situation, *Times'* new columnist finds the Eliot play a finer work in the realm of spirit.

DRAMA MAIL BOX... Two *Herald Tribune* readers split on merits of 7 30 Wed curtain, one picking the early start as ideal for non-city dweller, the other backing David Merrick's return to 8 30 Wed time as better for those who only want to go to theatre and not get out of show with evening only half used... Ford Fund criticized by director Richard Barr in *Times* letter for not granting new playwright production awards to NY Off Broadway theatres where the new plays could be seen by the right people.

CRITICAL THOUGHTS... Successful actors take triumph rather badly, but are wonderful in disaster, surmises *Slocum*, *Mirror*. After a recent fiasco he viewed the cast of the new play at *Sardi's*. They had worked so long to bring about nothing, they got bad notices, filed out smiling and chattering and carrying the newspapers like they were taking flowers home from a funeral... Hearing about an audience response mechanical device McClain, *Journal American*, predicts that soon critics may be extinct.

SECOND GUESSES... *A Taste of Honey* reveals a stunning team of author Sileagh Delaney and actress Joan Plowright, that may be forming a union that will function for a whole generation, hopes Aston, *WTS*... NY production of the Delaney play is on the whole better than the original London presentation, rates Watts, *Post*. She is a dramatist of remarkable gifts, and the play itself is a pleasure.

THEATRE RECORD COMMENTS... *A Thurber Carnival* original cast album (Columbia) recommended as a crisp and well paced production by Lask, *Times*... Oh Kay recent Off Broadway revival cast album (20th Century Fox) mildly approved as merely adequate, though scarcely as exciting as the Gershwin music deserves, by Molleson, *Herald Tribune*.

Tenderloin is a dull musical replica of the fascinating activities that must have taken place in NY's "red-light" district in the 1890's. Book and lyrics brought forth merely a dim US version of *Can-Can* with Maurice Evans featured in place of latter's sexy dances. Only amusing orchestrations by Irwin Kostal capture the much needed light touch and show how musical may have been if everything had been done with tongue firmly in cheek. Song titles like "Good Clean Fun" show limit of imagination imposed on all involved.

An Evening With Mike Nichols and Elaine May is a pleasant, low-pitched evening of theatre, though far from the hilarious, hard-hitting satire the talented comic team seem capable of. A few stabs of icy wit at the start of the evening are never followed up, and the list of contemporary topics they do not attack is endless. For those who have never seen or heard the duo the sketches will be extremely funny, for those who have heard the material on TV or night clubs before the sketches may seem to be on the padded side.

Drums Under the Windows is another O'Casey filled gem of an adaptation by talented Paul Shyre of the Irish playwright's autobiographical series of novels, expertly cast, brilliantly staged and an utter delight each and every moment. The varied images inherent in all O'Casey sentences come vividly to life as the cast and audience have a field day with the dozens of characters presented by the inventive sextet of actors.

An actors' "sit-in" by members of Equity Library Theatre cast of *Dead End* does not constitute a clear victory for thespians' civil rights and/or the right of each and every actor in a workshop production to make fools of themselves. As is his right the managing director of ELT can cancel any production as "unprofessional" eight days prior to its opening, the argument took place in this instance because he did it seven days prior to the opening. Long suffering theatre buffs can only compliment the fortitude of any production executive who tells a company that the show must not go on. Such an individual involved in the recent *Darwin's Theories* would certainly be praised by all concerned from saving them from the awful notices. Though it is a hard, if not impossible, lesson to learn, actors must realize that it is better not to be seen, than to be any part of a bomb.

The League of NY Theatres also deserves applause for sticking to its 7 30 PM Wed test. Though the day of the week and the time might not be right the producers, with the sole compulsive exception of David Merrick, were not forced to change their minds after a few weeks' of test because of the angry complaints of some midtown restaurant owners. Many restaurants in the midtown area are impossible to get in before curtain time and their slow service often discourages any theatre patron from returning a second time. When these same managers stop treating pre-theatre diners as real second class patrons they may win some of this business, no matter what time the curtain is. That the starting time may even be advanced earlier is evidenced by the large numbers of theatre-goers ready and willing to be at the theatre at 7 PM for the 7 30 PM curtain on Wed.

Though both Kennedy and Nixon express mild approval of the formation of a Federally supported foundation for the performing arts and the expansion of the cultural exchange program by sending more companies abroad, don't believe for a moment that either are going to fight for such bills if they are ever allowed to be introduced in Congress. Easier local building laws, support of civic repertory companies and imaginative directors (such as are combined in the Univ of Minn Tyrone Guthrie Theatre) is the road to more theatres.

Theatre Fact Chart presents up-to-minute data on current business and critical reaction on current Broadway and Off Broadway shows. Top week-end prices and opening dates are listed.

SUBSCRIBERS ONLY may write or phone for any other specific critical data and/or for specific details of late NYC reviews and Out of Town tryout reviews.

"C"- Critical- figures refer to percentage of PRO votes filed by 7 NYC daily newspaper reviewers. PRO means show was recommended for entertaining and/or stimulating evening, not if critic predicted if show would be a commercial hit (earn back investment.)

"B"- Business- figures refer to percentage of gross ticket sales last week and indicates current availability of tickets. Figures that follow, all in thousands of dollars, are gross capacity (CAP) and corrected Variety grosses of past week and preceding weeks. Thus 100% B- Cap \$80--\$80 \$76 \$75 -means show was a sellout last week at \$80,000, the previous week's gross was \$76,000, etc

BECKET St James \$7.50 10/5/60	246 W 44 LA 4-4664	90% C- 4 raves-1 Con- Times 100% B- Cap \$59--\$59 \$59
BEST MAN Morosco \$7.50 3/31/60	235 W 45 CI 6-6230	100% C- 7 pro- 3 raves 100% B- Cap \$40--\$41 \$38 \$34 \$36 \$39
BYE BYE BIRDIE 54th St \$8.60 4/14/60	152 W 54 JU 6-3787	90% C- 1 Con-Times-rest all raves Moved from Beck
FACE OF HERO O'Neill \$7.50 10/20/60	230 W 49 CI 5-9442	See Digest on Supplement Cap \$45
FIORIELLO Broadhurst \$9.40 11/23/59	235 W 44 CI 6-6699	100% C- 5 raves-Post, WTS milder book 100% B- Cap \$58--\$58 \$58 \$57 \$58 \$58
GYPSY Imperial \$9.40 5/21/59	249 W 45 CO 5-2412	100% C- 7 pro- J Am milder on book 100% B- Cap \$64--\$64 \$50 \$43 \$51 \$51
HOSTAGE Cort \$7.50 9/20/60	138 W 48 CI 5-4289	60% C- 4 Pro- H Trib, Post, Mir, WTS 50% B- Cap \$40--\$22 \$22 \$20 \$24
IRMA LA DOUCE Plymouth \$8.60 9/28/60	236 W 45 CI 6-9156	90% C- 1 Con- H Trib 100% B- Cap \$49--\$49 \$48 \$48
LA PLUME Royale \$8.05 11/11/58	242 W 45 CI 5-5760	100% C- 6 raves- Times milder 95% B- Cap \$45--\$42 \$35 \$30 \$35 \$36
MIKE & ELAINE Golden \$6.90 10/8/60	246 W 45 CI 6-6740	100% C- 7 pro for 2 person revue 100% B- Cap \$30--\$30
MIRACLE WORKER Playhouse \$7.50 10/19/59	137 W 48 CI 5-6060	100% C- 5 raves-Times, WTS milder 100% B- Cap \$36--\$36 \$33 \$28 \$32 \$35
MUSIC MAN Broadway \$8.05 12/19/57	1681 Bway CI 7-7992	100% C- 6 raves- H Trib milder Moved from Majestic
MY FAIR LADY Hellinger \$8.05 3/15/56	235 W 51 PL 7-7064	100% C- 7 raves Play-News OK P Char. 85% B- Cap \$70--\$58 \$51 \$48 \$51 \$52
SOUND OF MUSIC Lunt \$9.90 11/16/59	205 W 46 JU 6-5555	90% C- 1 Con- H Trib- 3 raves 100% B- Cap \$75--\$76 \$76 \$76 \$76 \$76
TAKE ME ALONG Shubert \$9.40 10/22/59	225 W 44 CI 6-5910	90% C- 1 Con- Mir-2 raves-News, WTS 80% B- Cap \$64--\$52 \$52 \$45 \$53 \$51
TASTE OF HONEY Lyceum \$6.90 10/4/60	149 W 45 JU 6-9854	80% C- 2 Con- News, Mir 65% B- Cap \$32--\$21 \$17
TENDERLOIN 46th St \$8.60 10/17/60	226 W 46 CI 6-4271	30% C- 2 Pro-News, WTS (raves) Cap \$65
TENTH MAN Booth \$7.50 11/5/59	222 W 45 CI 6-5969	100% C- 7 pro-2 raves-Times, News 65% B- Cap \$32--\$24 \$22 \$17 \$19 \$26
THURBER CARNIVAL ANTA \$7.50 2/26/60	245 W 52 CI 6-6270	100% C- 6 raves- Mir milder 50% B- Cap \$49--\$28 \$27 \$20 \$24 \$29
TOYS IN ATTIC Hudson \$7.50 2/25/60	141 W 44 JU 6-2237	100% C- 5 raves-Times, J Am milder 65% B- Cap \$40--\$27 \$25 \$17 \$21 \$27
THE WALL Rose \$7.50 10/11/60	208 W 41 WI 7-5510	40% C- 3 Pro- raves-Times, News, WTS 70% B- Cap \$46--\$30
WEST SIDE STORY Alvin \$8.05 4/27/60	250 W 52 CI 5-5226	100% C- 7 pro on return of musical Moved from Winter Garden

"CD" PROS & CONS

PROS: Becket, Best Man, Bye Bye Birdie, Gypsy, Hostage, La Plume, Miracle Worker, Music Man, My Fair Lady, Take Me Along, Taste of Honey, Thurber Carnival, Toys in Attic, West Side Story, The Wall

Balcony, Country Scandal, Deep Are Roots, Drums Under Window, Greenwich Village, Krapps Last Tape, Leave it to Jane, Little Mary Sunshine, 3 Penny,

CONS: Sound of Music, Tenderloin, Tenth Man
Here Comes Clowns, La Ronde, Sign of Jonah

OFF BROADWAY

BALCONY Circle \$4.50 3/3/60	159 Bleecker GR 3-4950	3 Pro- Times, News, WTS 3 Con- H Trib, News, J Am
COUNTRY SCANDAL G Mews \$3.90 5/5/60	131 W 13 CH 3-6800	6 Pro- No Mirror Sat to Thur- No Fris
DANCE OF DEATH Key \$3.60 9/13/60	4 St Marks GR 5-9748	2 Pro- Times, WTS 3 Con- H Trib, Post, J Am
DARWIN'S THEORIES Mad Av \$4.60 10/18/60	120 Madison MU 4-7180	6 Con- No News
DEEP ARE ROOTS St Marks \$3.60 10/3/60	133-2nd Av OR 4-3530	5 Pro- 1 Con- Post- No Mirror
DRUMS UNDER WINDOW C Lane \$4.60 10/13/60	38 Comm CH 2-4289	5 Pro- 2 Con- H Trib, News
GREENWICH VILLAGE USA 1 Sher Sq \$4.50 9/28/60	1 Sher Sq UN 9-1334	5 Pro- H Trib, News, J Am, Post, WTS 1 Con- Times- No Mirror
FANTASTICKS Sullivan \$4.60 5/3/60	181 Sullivan OR 4-3838	5 Pro- 1 Con- H Trib- No Mirror
HERE COME CLOWNS Actors Play \$4.60 9/19/60	100-7th Av S OR 5-1036	4 Pro- Times, News, Post, J Am 3 Con- H Trib, Mir, WTS
KRAPPS LAST TAPE Cricket \$4.50 1/14/60	162-2nd Av OR 4-3960	6 Pro- No Mirror
LA RONDE T Marquee \$3.90 5/9/60	110 E 59 PL 3-2575	1 Pro- WTS (rave) 5 Con- All mild- No Mirror
LEAVE IT TO JANE Sher Sq \$5 5/25/59	99-7th Av S CH 2-9244	5 Pro- 2 Con- H Trib, News
LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE Orpheum \$4.95 11/18/59	126-2nd Av OR 4-8140	6 Pro- 4 raves-No Mirror
SIGN OF JONAH Players \$3.90 8/8/60	115 MacDoug AL 4-5076	4 Pro-Times, H Trib, Post, WTS 2 Con- News, J Am
SHEPHERDS ON SHELF Blackfairs \$3 10/14/60	320 W 57 CI 7-0236	3 Pro- Mirror, J Am, WTS
SHOEMAKER & PEDDLER East 74 \$4.60 10/14/60	334 E 74 LE 5-5557	2 Pro- H Trib, WTS 3 Con- Times, Post, J Am
3 PENNY OPERA De Lys \$4.85 9/20/54	121 Chris WA 4-8782	3 Pro- Times, H Trib, Post
LIVING REPERTORY Living \$3.45	530-6th Av CH 2-4569	Connection-5 con-1 pro-Post 7/5/59 Theatre Chance-1 pro-Post 6/22/60

NYC THEATRE CALENDAR

49th Cousin- Ambassador Invitation to a March- M Box 10/29 Man and Superman- Gate 10/30 Behind the Wall- Jan Hus 10/31 Kukla, Burr & Ollie- Astor Hotel 10/31	She Stoops to Conquer-Phoenix 11/1 Rape of the Belt- Beck- 11/2 Unsinkable M Brown- W Garden 11/3 The Mousetrap- Maidman- 11/5 Hedda Gabler- 4th St 11/9 Period of Adjustment-Hayes 11/10 Open Up Your Heart- 11/10 Rosemary- York 11/14 Under Yum Yum Tree-Miller 11/16 Advise & Consent-Cort 11/17 Dream Play- T East 11/22 Taffy- 11/23 Tree Grows in Brooklyn-Bar Pl 11/28 Ideal- (Off)- 11/28 All the Way Home- Belasco- 11/30 Love & Libel- 11/30 Donogoo- G Mews 11/7 3 Short Plays- Village Gate- 11/7	Little Moon Alban-Longacre 12/1 Camelot- Majestic 12/3 Send Me No Flowers-Atkinson 12/5 Critics Choice-Barrym 12/14 Wildcat- Alvin- 12/15 What a Killing-York 12/22 Do Re Me-St James 12/26 The Tiger Rag-T Marquee 12/7 Conquering Hero- ANTA 1/5 Rhinoceros- 1/5 Show Girl- 1/14 Love & Death 1/15 I'm With You- 2/1 Faust- C Center 2/7 Once Was Russian- 2/8 13 Daughters- 2/9 Comedie Franciase-C Center 2/21 The Caretaker-Miller 2/7 Red Roses for Me-G Mews 2/7
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TV THEATRE PROGRAMS

Oct 22- CBS- The Disenchanted on Show of Month
Oct 24- NBC- Shangri-La on Hall of Fame
Nov 16- CBS- Heaven Can Wait on Show of Month
Nov 20- NBC- Macbeth on Hall of Fame with Judith Anderson
Dec 8- NBC- Peter Pan with Mary Martin



\$25 check
Bill Co

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